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Identical letters dated 22 February 2017 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Tunis Declaration in support of political settlement in Libya, which was adopted on 20 February 2017 at the conclusion of the meeting that was held in Tunis on 19 and 20 February 2017, among the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, the Algerian Minister for Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League and the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sabri **Boukadoum**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Algeria

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Egypt

(*Signed*) Mohamed Kaled **Khlari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia

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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 February 2017 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Tunis ministerial declaration to support a comprehensive political solution in Libya

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Arab Republic of Egypt, having met on 19 and 20 February 2017 in Tunis at the invitation of the Republic of Tunisia on the initiative of His Excellency Mr. Béji Caïd Essebsi of the Republic of Tunisia, with a view to reaching a political solution through comprehensive dialogue and national reconciliation in Libya,

Commending the efforts made by Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia to bring together the views of Libyan actors and ensure their return to dialogue with a view to tackling the areas of disagreement that have hampered implementation of the political agreement signed in Skhirat on 17 December 2015, by organizing dialogue and consultations and hosting all of the Libyan actors of all allegiances and outlooks,

Recognizing the standing of Libya as a neighbour and a member of the League of Arab States and the Arab Maghreb Union; recognizing also the strong historic ties between the Libyan people and the peoples of the region and their exchanges, interdependence and shared future; noting that the instability in Libya has repercussions for immediately neighbouring States, including insecurity, cross-border crime and, most dangerously, terrorism and clandestine migration,

Deeply concerned at the humanitarian situation and living conditions of the Libyan people owing to the stalled political process and the repercussions for the humanitarian situation and access to public services for Libyan civilians,

Mindful of the extensive harm that the loss of control has inflicted on Libya; considering that the situation of anticipation and paralysis cannot continue; considering also that Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia have a historic duty to act promptly and press the Libyans to move beyond the current stumbling block and open new horizons for a political solution through dialogue among Libyans, with the support of the three States and under United Nations auspices, with a view to arriving at consensus-based amendments to the political agreement that would ensure its implementation in accordance with the time frame set forth therein,

Emphasizing the need to respect the principles of international law concerning the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly the Security Council resolutions on the Libyan issue, such as resolution 2259 (2015) of 23 December 2015 concerning the signing of the Libyan Political Agreement, as that resolution constitutes the international legal frame of reference for a political solution in Libya and amounts to a consensus-based framework with a view to emerging from the Libyan crisis; emphasizing also the role and responsibility of the United Nations in sponsoring political dialogue and following up implementation of the agreement and its outcomes,

Underscoring the pivotal role of the mechanism of States neighbouring Libya and of the United Nations and international and regional bodies,

Recalling the main principles that were agreed at the ten ministerial meetings of the States neighbouring Libya that were held in Cairo, N'Djamena, Khartoum, Algiers, Tunis and Niamey,

Have reviewed the efforts made by the three States to help find a consensus-based solution among all of the Libyan actors of all allegiances and outlooks, and have agreed on the following principles:

1. Intensive efforts should continue with a view to achieving comprehensive reconciliation in Libya, without marginalizing any party, in the context of dialogue among Libyans with the support of the three States and under United Nations auspices;

2. It is essential to remain committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya and to the political solution, which is the only way out of the Libyan crisis. That solution should be based on, and take as a framework, the Libyan Political Agreement signed on 17 December 2015. An agreement should be made to support the consensus-based proposals of the Libyan actors aimed at formulating supplementary provisions and amendments that would make it possible to implement the agreement;

3. Any military solution to the Libyan crisis should be rejected, as should any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Libya. The solution can be reached only among Libyans, and the dialogue should include all of the Libyan actors, whatever their outlooks or political allegiances;

4. Action should be taken to preserve the unity of the civilian institutions of the Libyan State that are set forth in the political agreement, namely, the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives and the State Council. This includes preserving the unity of the Libyan Army in accordance with the provisions of the Libyan Political Agreement, so that it can fulfil its national role by maintaining security and combating terrorism, cross-border crime and clandestine migration;

5. The three States should continue their efforts at the ministerial level by coordinating with one another and with the Libyan political actors in order to overcome the obstacles in place. The outcomes of the ministerial meeting should be transmitted to His Excellency the President of Tunisia, Béji Caïd Essebsi, His Excellency the President of Algeria, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and His Excellency the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, in preparation for the tripartite summit in Algiers. The Tunis ministerial declaration should lay the groundwork with a view to intensifying and fostering dialogue among the Libyan actors in accordance with a specific time frame that is to be agreed subsequently through consultations among the concerned Libyan actors and the United Nations, as the official sponsor of the Libyan Political Agreement and of any new understandings regarding corrections or amendments thereto;

6. The three States should jointly and formally transmit the Tunis ministerial declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Chair of the Commission of the African Union, and have it circulated as a document of the three organizations.

Done and signed at Tunis on Monday, 20 February 2017.

(*Signed*) Abdelkader **Messahel**
Minister of Maghreb Affairs, the African Union
and the League of Arab States
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

(*Signed*) Sameh Hassan Shokry **Selim**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Arab Republic of Egypt

(*Signed*) Khemais **Jhinaoui**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Tunisia